

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-05 EUR-12 INR-07 IO-14 MED-03

NSAE-00 PA-02 DHA-05 CA-01 OES-07 PRS-01 CIAE-00

HEW-06 AID-05 DODE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 INSE-00 /081 W

-----024693 090617Z /12

O 090450Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6449

UNCLAS SUVA 1074

FOR EA/ANP

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: CONFIRMED CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN GILBERT ISLANDS

1. HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS FROM BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OF CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN TARAWA, GILBERT ISLANDS. REQUEST FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES MADE TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN SUVA AND BEING SUPPLIED BY NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT. RNZRAF ORION PLANE WITH MEDICAL PERSONNEL INCLUDING A PATHOLOGIST, TWO OR THREE SURGEONS, FOUR ARMY NURSES, TWO ARMY HEALTH INSPECTORS AND TWO LABORATORY TECHNICIANS DUE TARAWA GILBERTS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10. SUPPLIES REQUESTED INCLUDE THIRTY THOUSAND DOSES CHOLERA VACCINES. EXACT FIGURES UNKNOWN BUT RUMORS SAY 30 PEOPLE ARE ILL AND THREE HAVE DIED.

2. AN ALERT ISSUED BY THE FIJI MINISTRY OF HEALTH STATES: ALL (FIJI) QUARANTINE OFFICERS TO PLACE A STRICT SURVEILLANCE ON ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE ARRIVED FROM THE GILBERTS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS. THEY ARE TO REPORT TO A MEDICAL OFFICER OR NEAREST HEALTH OFFICE IMMEDIATELY. ALL PERSONS TRAVELLING TO FIJI FROM TARAWA ARE REQUIRED TO POSSESS A VALID CHOLERA VACCINATION CERTIFICATE AND WILL BE PLACED ON STRICT SURVEILLANCE.
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3. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION ADVISES THAT ALL TRAVEL IN AND OUT OF TARAWA HAS STOPPED. THERE ARE AT LEAST TEN AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT IN TARAWA AS MISSIONARIES AND THEIR WELFARE IS NOT YET KNOWN. MORMON CHURCH IN SUVA HS BEEN CONTACTED.

4. PLEASE ALERT U. S. PORTS OF ENTRY AND PROPER MEDICAL

AUTHORITIES.

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